

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-09

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DRAFTED BY WHITE HOUSE TEXT:JES

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S/S:MR. GAMMON

NEA:ADUBS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO NIACT IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CE, US

SUBJECT: LETTER FROM PRESIDENT TO PRIME MINISTER

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF LETTER FROM PRESIDENT TO PRIME MINISTER BANDARANAIKE. IF POSSIBLE TO SCHEDULE SECOND SESSION FOR SECRETARY SIMON WITH PRIME MINISTER IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE FOR SIMON PERSONALLY TO DELIVER MESSAGE. OTHERWISE, AMBASSADOR SHOULD ARRANGE FOR DELIVERY.

2. QUOTE: DEAR MADAME PRIME MINISTER:

THANK YOU FOR YOUR VERY THOUGHTFUL LETTERS OF MARCH 21 AND MARCH 24. I AM PLEASED THAT OUR GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN ABLE TO ASSIST THE PEOPLE OF SRI LANKA THROUGH THE PROVISION OF ECONOMIC AND FOOD ASSISTANCE. I ASSURE YOU THAT MY ADMINISTRATION WILL DO ALL IT CAN TO SEE THAT OUR RELATIONSHIP REMAINS CORDIAL. AMERICANS FEEL A SPECIAL KINSHIP FOR SRI LANKA BECAUSE OF OUR SHARED DEMOCRATIC POLITICAL

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TRADITIONS.

I READ WITH GREAT INTEREST YOUR OBSERVATIONS ON THE
DROUGHT IN SRI LANKA AND THE RISING COST OF IMPORTED

COMMODITIES. I AM PLEASED THAT OUR ECONOMIC AND FOOD
ASSISTANCE WAS HELPFUL. ALTHOUGH BUDGET AND OTHER
UNCERTAINTIES PRECLUDED OUR MAKING A SPECIFIC PLEDGE AT
THE RECENT AID GROUP MEETING IN PARIS, I ASSURE YOU THAT
WITHIN OUR FINANCIAL AND SUPPLY LIMITATIONS WE INTEND TO
CONTINUE TO SUPPORT SRI LANKA'S EFFORTS TO DEAL WITH ITS
ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. WE HAVE BEEN IMPRESSED BY THE STEPS
YOU HAVE TAKEN TO MOVE YOUR NATION TOWARD SELF-SUFFICIENCY
IN BASIC FOODSTUFFS. WE SHARE YOUR HOPE THAT THIS
GOAL CAN BECOME A REALITY IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

I WANT TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS MY
PERSONAL PLEASURE THAT SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY SIMON
IS ABLE TO VISIT SRI LANKA ON HIS CURRENT TRIP. HE
CARRIES WITH HIM MY PERSONAL BEST WISHES AND MY HOPES FOR
THE CONTINUED FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN OUR GOVERNMENTS AND OUR
PEOPLES.

WITH WARM BEST WISHES.

SINCERELY, GERALD R. FORD. UNQUOTE.

3. SIGNED COPY OF MESSAGE BEING POUCHED TO COLOMBO. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

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To: COLOMBO
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